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DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

| | |
|---|---|
| Report date: 18/05/2006 | Accident number: 192 |
| Accident time: 13:45 | Accident Date: 01/11/1994 |
| Where it occurred: Prak Ponglar, Kampong Cham Province | Country: Cambodia |
| Primary cause: Unavoidable (?) | Secondary cause: Inadequate equipment (?) |
| Class: Victim inattention | Date of main report: 12/11/1994 |
| ID original source: TAM/NP | Name of source: CMAC |
| Organisation: Name removed | |
| Mine/device: M14 AP blast | Ground condition: rocks/stones |
| Date record created: 14/02/2004 | Date last modified: 14/02/2004 |
| No of victims: 3 | No of documents: 1 |

Map details

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Longitude: | Latitude: |
| Alt. coord. system: | Coordinates fixed by: |
| Map east: | Map north: |
| Map scale: not recorded | Map series: |
| Map edition: | Map sheet: |
| Map name: | |

Accident Notes

no independent investigation available (?)

inadequate medical provision (?)

inadequate equipment (?)

safety distances ignored (?)

Accident report

This accident is listed as having occurred on 2nd November 1994 on the country MAC's Accident summary. An internal report was written by a technical advisor and dated 12th November 1994. The following summarises its content.

An M14 mine was found, and the deminers reported it to the deputy site manager. The Section Commander told them to check for mines around it and then return to the umbrella

[the rest point in the demining group]. The Section Commander then took some sticks to mark the find, and discovered that he needed one more stick. He called to Victim No.2, 20m away, to fetch another stick.

Victim No.2 collected a stick and walked towards the Section Commander. He paused to sharpen the stick when he was 2m away and saw the Section Commander (Victim No.1) fall over on to the mine with his hands outstretched.

After the explosion, Victim No.1 ran to the road and then collapsed. Victim No.2 walked 4m and then sat down. Victim No.3 was 5-10m away and ran to the umbrella [rest area] shouting for help. The site medic treated all three with assistance from "an American woman and her driver" who arrived fortuitously at the site.

The accident occurred at 13:45 and first aid was administered 3 minutes later. The ambulance left the site at 14:11 and arrived at Tbong Kmom Hospital at 15:00. At 09:15 the next morning, the three injured were moved to Kosomak Hospital in Phnom Penh.

Victim No.2 stated that the Section Commander was in a squatting position prior to falling over, and that the ground was rocky below the surface.

Victim No.1 said he fell because the third (of four) marking stick broke as he pushed it into the ground.

Conclusion

The investigators concluded that SOPs were not broken and the Section Commander fell because the stick broke. The report noted that he was wearing his safety spectacles, and that they probably saved his eyes.

Recommendations

The investigators recommended that the system for marking discovered mines be reconsidered.

Victim Report

| | |
|---|--|
| Victim number: 243 | Name: Name removed |
| Age: 28 | Gender: Male |
| Status: supervisory | Fit for work: no |
| Compensation: US\$4,000 | Time to hospital: 1 hour 15 minutes |
| Protection issued: Safety spectacles | Protection used: Safety spectacles |

Summary of injuries:

minor Face

minor Foot

minor Legs

minor Neck

AMPUTATION/LOSS

Arm Below elbow

Arm Below elbow

COMMENT: See medical report.

Medical report

No formal medical report was on file.

The field medic's report written on the day of the accident recorded Victim No.1's injuries simply as amputation of both hands.

A memorandum put before the compensation board described the victim's injuries as:

Victim No.1: "who was amputated of both arms, 2cm below elbow, injured face, neck, left upper leg, right knee and right foot (internal part)".

A photograph of the victim showed his hands amputated above the wrist and dressings on his right knee and left side of his neck.

A receipt was included in Victim No.1's file indicating that his salary was \$170 per month.

Victim Report

| | |
|---|--|
| Victim number: 244 | Name: Name removed |
| Age: 25 | Gender: Male |
| Status: deminer | Fit for work: presumed |
| Compensation: US\$200 | Time to hospital: 1 hour 15 minutes |
| Protection issued: Safety spectacles | Protection used: not recorded |

Summary of injuries:

minor Arm

minor Body

minor Chest

minor Face

minor Legs

COMMENT

See medical report.

Medical report

No formal medical report was on file.

The field medic's report written on the day of the accident recorded Victim No.2's injuries as "mild injured on the chest, face, abdomen, arm".

A photograph taken on 15th November 1994 showed him standing upright with several bandages to his upper and lower body and upper right leg.

A memorandum put before the compensation board described the victim's injuries as:

Victim No.2: injuries to "right neck, chest, right side of thorax, belly and 2 legs."

US\$200 compensation was paid.

Victim Report

| | |
|---|--|
| Victim number: 245 | Name: Name removed |
| Age: 26 | Gender: Male |
| Status: deminer | Fit for work: presumed |
| Compensation: US\$100 | Time to hospital: 1 hour 15 minutes |
| Protection issued: Safety spectacles | Protection used: not recorded |

Summary of injuries:

minor Foot

minor Leg

COMMENT: See medical report.

Medical report

No formal medical report was on file.

The field medic's report written on the day of the accident recorded Victim No.3's injuries as "mild injured right thigh", and a photograph showed him with a small dressing on his right thigh.

A memorandum put before the compensation board described the victim's injuries as: Victim No.3 "who was injured right upper leg and left foot".

Compensation of US\$100 was paid.

Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as "*Unavoidable*" because the main victim fell onto the mine when a marking stick broke. It is not clear whether the stick was old or rotten but it is clear that he did not intend it to break. The secondary cause is listed as "*Inadequate equipment*" because the stick was clearly inadequate.

In the absence of evidence otherwise, it is presumed that Victims 2 & 3 were wearing safety spectacles.

The close proximity of Victims 2 & 3 probably represents a failure of supervision because recommended safety distances were apparently ignored.